

***Abstract of the Disclosure***

[0034] A microstructured optical component is formed from an optical preform fabricated to include one or more internal regions of differing refractive index. The preform is drawn into a fiber and sliced into relatively long individual fiber segments, each segment thus forming a microstructured optical component. An optical signal may then be coupled through a sidewall of the component in a direction parallel to the endfaces of the segment. A more complex structure can be formed by grouping together a plurality of fiber segments and performing an additional drawing and slicing process.